THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Now, I will put the motion to vote.

The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

DELHI PROHIBITION OF EVE-TEASING BILL, 1984

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to prohibit eve-teasing in the Union territory of Delhi and to provide for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I rise before this House today to request for consideration and passing of the Delhi Prohibition of Eve-teasing Bill, 1984.

Sir, a copy of the Bill along with the Statement of Objects and Reasons is before the honourable Members. As has been mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, in recent years there has been a perceptible increase in the complaints of eve-teasing in Delhi, especially in buses and other public places. The tendency of eve-teasing is an unfortunate aberration in the society where for centuries women have enjoyed not only an important, but also a respectable status. The present unfortunate trend of subjecting women to humiliation and degradation by the eve-teasers is not conducive to the health of our great society and it has, therefore, been considered expedient in the public interest to devise special legislative measures to tackle the problem more effectively.

The existing provisions of the Delhi Police Act and the Indian Penal Code have not proved effective and adequate. The Delhi Police Act, for example, provides for a fine of up to Rs. 100 for the offence and I am sure that the honourable Members will agree with me that this punishment is not deterrent enough. It is a matter of well-recognised public policy that whenever a social and economic offence assumes serious proportions, then special legislative measures with deterrent provisions and quicker court procedures should be enacted even if there are general provisions of law in existence. It is in this context that the Delhi Administration had forwarded the Delhi Prohibition of Eve-teasing Bill, 1984 as passed by the Metropolitan Council with the request that the same may be enacted by Parliament.

Sir, the Bill as proposed by the Delhi Administration provides that whosoever commits the offence of eve-teasing shall be punished with imprisonment which shall not be for less than seven days and which may be extended up to 15 days for the first offence and shall also be liable to fine.

The Bill provides that the offence is cognizable and non-bailable. All offences under this Bill shall be treated by a summary procedure by Metropolitan Magistrates in the interest of speedy justice. Let us remember that once the Bill becomes law, not only will those guilty of the offence be suitably punished but the fear of speedy justice would have a deterrent effect on the potential eve-teasers.

I commend this Bill for adoption by this August House.

The question was proposed.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, this Bill was introduced in Parliament on the 23rd August 1984. The Minister read out the Statement of Objects and Reason which obtained at that time. The situation has got much worse but the Minister has failed to explain why the Government has taken such a serious matter so casually that it took them more than four years to take this Bill up for consideration.

[Shri Subramanian Swamy]

Sir, when one looks at the speed with which this Government brought the Anti-Defamation Bill or properly called the Defamation Bill and tried to get it passed with tremendous speed, one wonders why on a social matter like this they have taken up it up so lackadaisically. And it also speaks of the weak voice of the eves sitting in Congress (I) benches who have not been able to press their Government to bring this Bill earlier.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It is because they pressed for it that the Bill has come.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Otherwise it would not have come at all? (*Interruptions*)

Sir, eve-teasing is specially a big problem in Delhi. It is there in other cities But in crudity and extent, Delhi, I think, ranks number one. And, therefore, the Central Government being here and the Bill having been introduced, a responsibility devolves on the Government either to apologize for such long delay in bringing this Bill for consideration or give me such convincing reasons that I will say: Okay, I won't seek your apology. But the nation certainly would like to know.

Sir, in fact, eve-teasing is a disease that requires a radical cure and a comprehensive attack. I think it is not enough to tighten the Indian Penal Code or have some kind of summary punishment. What is required is to examine and see from how many angles we can tackle this problem, because eve-teasing is against the culture of India.

If one were to look at our culture, and here I speak specially for the Hindu religion which is 82 per cent of India's population, in that religion, Sir, as I stated in this House before, a stage of women has never been where you can 'Chherao' them or eve-tease them. For instance, if we want to look at Lord Brahma's Cabinet", the three most powerful portfolios are held by women; Defence by Parvathi, Finance by Lakshmi and Education by Saraswathi. You know that Hinduism was re-established in India by Adi Shankaracharya in a debate he had with Buddhist scholars, Mandana Mishra and Varanishi, and they could not find a judge. Ultimately, they chose Mandana Mishra's wife who sat as a judge and pronounced her husband defeated, and that enabled the Hindu religion to be re-established in full glory. There is nothing in our culture or religion which shows that women should have this kind of status. If somebody produces Manusmriti, I say that Manusmriti is definitely a 'Smriti", you can throw it into fire. But in our 'Shruti', in our Vedas, in our Scriptures, there is nothing but equal status meant for women, and women must fight for it and get it in case they have lost it for a variety of reasons.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): What about "Istri Swatantra Marbati"?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: You will have to explain that. (*Interruptions*) Sir, I want to know from the Minister as to why there is no national Act on Eve-teasing? Why is it restricted only to Delhi? In the Objects and Reasons, you have described that the Delhi Metropolitan Council passed this legislation. I think you should use your persuasion to see that every State Assembly requests for it. You have indeed concurrent powers to bring a national Act, if you want, in the name of protecting the rights of women. There are a number of provisions in the Constitution which will give you that power. The problem is very serious. If the Minister will look at the newspaper clippings of May, he will find out that the Supreme Court, in May of this year, had to direct that an inquiry be held in the way a landlady, the owner of a house, was treated by the tenant because she had asked for payment of rent on time. The Police participated in it by torturing the lady and then prading her in the mohalla in orders to create disgrace for her. The Police participated in it. When she went to the higher

Police authorities, they did nothing. She tried all the civil servants. Nobody did anything. Ultimately, she had to go to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court directed that an enquiry be held by a District Judge. This is the extent which some people have gone. So, you do need a national Act. Take, for example, the treatment of a lady in Bagpat. You may have forgotten what happened in Bagpat. In 1980, the terrible thing had happened where the Police had caught hold the wife of one of the persons. They were passing through in a cart. One of the persons got into an altercation. His wife's name was Maya Tyagi. The Police dragged her out, stripped her naked and made her walk through the streets. They also did all kinds of other terrible things. Ultimately, of course, after a lot of protests in which Chaudhari Charan Singh led a big satyagraha, the Government agreed. The court has given a decision on which they are on appeal. Nothing much has happened. In fact, the officers involved have got a promotion.

Sir, you find female infanticide. It has been reported in this House by no less a person than my distinguished colleague, Mr. Kamal Morarka. It does not matter whether it was the Congress(I) M.L.A. or the C.P.I. MLA or M L.A.; of any other party. The fact is that this is happening. The whole concept that somehow the women are something to be treated this way is an artificially-created culture which we have to combat. Therefore, eve-teasing cannot be stopped by itself. It has to be attacked from all sides.

I have only three suggestions to make before I conclude. Firstly, the present Bill which the Minister has brought is not complete. I have, therefore, brought an amendment. Today a large number of working girls complain to me and even the lady Members of Parliament have complained to me about obscene telephone calls. I consider that also as a part of eve-teasing. Therefore, this Bill has a lacuna in that they have not included that as a crime. Hence I would like the Government not to think that since I am speaking from the opposition and I am intelligent enough to see that they have created this lacuna, therefore I am trying to fill it. So, I must now...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): He was the Communications Minister. So, he knows it.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Yes, he knows it. He did not participate in it. But he knows about it. Therefore, I would like him to be broad minded...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): During the discussion, I heard some queer words such as "I am intelligent enough" etc. Do you call yourself an intelligent man or what?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan): Sir, at this age Mr. Kulkarni should not participate in a discussion on eveteasing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): He is also intelligent. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Is age a bar to participate in such a lively and romantic discussion? Sir, these youngesters feel that it is their own field. Don't think that the oldies are devoid of heart. We also have heart.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Kulkarniji, you can also speak on this.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Apa Saheb, you can participate in eve-teasing also.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: So, I would like the Minister, on behalf of the Government, to accept my Amendment because I honestly tell you that the working women in the cities...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It is a fact.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:... are explaining, and I am thankful to you, Sir, from the Chair you are supporting me. And I hope the Minister would accept this Amendment.

[Shri Subramanian Swamy]

Secondly, Sir, the communication technology today is so well developed that it is possible now to page doctors who are 50 or 60 miles away from the hospital, and even policemen. Indeed in many countries of the world, women are now getting the facility to have, what is called the small paging walkie-talkie device by which if they are somewhere alone, far away from the police, they can beep a walkie-talkie and the police station would get the signal. And I know the Government has banned the import of these items. It should now make it possible for women to have it particularly in cities where the problem is more acute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): What is the cost?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: The cost of such a walkie-talkie is very little. In fact, you can get such a beeping device. The main problem is the machine to be put in the police station. But the beeper which will be purchased by the ladies will not cost more than Rs. 600. So, a lot of people can afford it. I think ultimately when we start manufacturing them in our country, the cost can come down. It is not a very sophisticated device. The device which is in the police station is sophisticated. And there also, it is something to which he should devote his attention.

Finally, Sir, I would think that there are two areas which are contributing very heavily to the prevalence of eve-teasing. One is the culture that makes women docile. I think, we should now see in schools more and more women becoming like Renukadevi, aggressive for their rights.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): She has ceased to be aggressive.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: So, Sir, in Schools, I think, girls should be given training in self-defence arts and also methods by which they can defend themselves. At the moment, what women are taught is what we see in Hindi film. That is, the women, when they are attacked, they start weeping and crying and make themselves totally helpless. So, the training needs to be changed. Educational approach should be that the women should be taught to be aggressive, to be able to defend and engage themselves in self-defence.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: They are taught Karate also.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: It is taught only in a few schools. It should be widespread.

Finally, Sir, the biggest offender of women's sensibilities is the Hindi film and the films in general. And there, Sir, eversince this Government came to power in 1984, maybe under the influence of Amitabh Bachchan, I do not know, there is a definite decline in the standards and permissiveness in allowing certain types of films to get through. And they must be much more strict. Any film which projects women in demeaning ways, which puts them as helpless creatures, such films should be banned. All these silly stories that show how by eve-teaching the two fall in love, should be stopped and a whole lot of things should be stopped. I do not want to go into this question.

But I think, these also should be regulated.

So, Sir, with these words, I would oppose the Bill as it is presented. But if the Minister accepts my Amendment, then I am willing to give him support.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: With this type of thinking, Sir, how can he go to the 21st century? He will stay here only.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सरकार द्वारा प्रस्तुत दिल्ली छेड़खानी प्रतिषेध विधेयक, 1984 का स्वागत करती हूं।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्य नारायण रेड्डी) पीठासीन हुए]

महोदय, देखा जाए तो महिलाओं के साथ छेड़खानी या अभद्र व्यवहार आकस्मिक नहीं है बल्कि इसके पीछे एक निकृष्ट मानसिकता की परंपरा है जो स्त्री को शताब्दियों से सिर्फ उपभोग की वस्तु मानती आई है। प्राचीन काल में भी स्त्री की "यत्र नारयस्तु पूज्यन्ते रमन्ते तत्र देवता:" कहकर सिर्फ वाचिक शैली में ही स्तुति की गई जबकि पुरुष समाज में उसे निरंतर भोग्य और मनोरंजन का साधन मात्र ही माना जाता रहा। पुरुष ने स्त्री को निरंतर उसके कर्तव्यों की याद दिलाई। कभी भी यह नहीं बताया कि उसके कुछ अधिकार भी कहीं हैं। मानव सभ्यता के इतिहास का विश्लेषण करने पर पता चलता है कि जैसे मनुष्य तथाकथित रूप से सभ्य हुआ है, स्त्री के प्रति उसके नज़रिए में दिनोदिन विकृति आती गई है। पूर्व वैदिक और वैदिक काल में जबकि आर्य अभी भारत आए ही थे और अव्यवस्था के संक्रमण से गुजर रहे थे उस समय के समाज में स्त्री और पुरुष दोनों को समान स्थान प्राप्त था। उस समय स्त्री का अपमान करने, उसके साथ अभद्र व्यवहार करने का विचार नहीं उपजा था। किन्तु जैसे जैसे आर्य सभ्यता अपने पैर जमाती गई, वैसे वैसे स्त्री की गरिमा का ह्रास होने लगा। उत्तर वैदिक काल, गुप्त काल, राजपूत काल, सल्तनत और मुगल काल में पुरुष ने स्त्री के साथ जो पशुवत व्यवहार किया, वह उसकी तथाकथित सभ्यता पर प्रश्न चिन्ह लगाती है।

महोदय, आज महानगरों में बढ़ती हुई जनसंख्या, भागदौड़ बढ़ती हुई उपभोक्ता संस्कृति एक आम आदमी में कई महत्वाकांक्षाएं उत्पन्न करती है। साथ ही यह उसमें अपनी इच्छाओं की पूर्ति करने की भावना बलवती होती जाती है। आधुनिक सभ्यता की ऊबाऊ दिनचर्या, फ्रस्ट्रेशन और दैनिक संघर्ष उन्हें जिन्दगी में कुछ असाधारण करने को प्रेरित करते हैं। चूंकि स्त्री के प्रति पुरुष का नज़रिया एक अरसे से सामन्ती रहा है और आज के युग में वह स्त्री को हरम में भेड़ के रेहड़ की तरह ठूंस नहीं पाता, इसलिए उसकी मानसिक विकृति, छेड़खानी, स्त्री के साथ घृणित और अभद्र व्यवहार के रूप में प्रकट होती है। जहां तक नई पीढ़ी का सवाल है, वीडियो और फिल्मों के कारण वह समय से पहले ही मैच्योर हो जाती है, किन्तु समाज की मानसिकता और छोटी उम्र के कारण वह अपनी

फिलिंग को दबाती है जो छेड़खानी जैसी विकृति में बदल जाती है ।

महोदय, पिछले दिनों दिल्ली में जिस तरह की छेड़खानी की घटनाएं बढ़ी हैं वह गभीर सामाजिक समस्या है जिसे सिर्फ कानून बना देने से हल नही किया जा सकता । जरूरी यह है कि स्त्री को स्वयं ही इस समस्या को जूझने के लिए, समर्थ बनाया जाए । देखा जाता है कि परिवार में माता-पिता ही लड़की को सब कुछ सहन करने, सिर झुकाकर चलने की घुट्टी बचपन से पिलाते रहते हैं जिससे वह अपने साथ हुई अभद्र छेड़छाड़ का प्रतिवाद करने का साहस भी नही जुटा पाती । हमारे समाज में स्त्री के सब कुछ सहन करने को उसके चरित्र के साथ इस तरह जोड़ दिया गया है कि अपने साथ दुर्व्यवहार करने वालों का विरोध करने वाली नारी को ही पूरा समाज दुश्चरित्र करार देने लगता है । लड़कियां भी जानती हैं कि छेड़छाड़ का विरोध आवश्यक है किन्तु उनमें दम नहीं है । बरसों से दबाई जाती रही स्त्री के लिए वाकई एक दबा ढका शर्मीला चोला उतारकर फेंकना सरल नहीं है । इसके लिए अभी बहुत शिक्षा की आवश्यकता है ।

ईव टीजिंग द्वारा सिर्फ स्त्रियों के साथ छेड़छाड़ ही नहीं की जाती उसका चरित्र हनन भी होता है क्योंकि इस छेड़खानी का विरोध या मुकाबला करने वाली महिलाओं को "चालू स्त्री" की संज्ञा दी जाती है । अतः स्त्री के पास "आदर भाव रखना" यह शिक्षा पुरुष को उसके बचपन से दी जाए ।

महोदय, मैं तो इस सदन के माध्यम से खास तौर से मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहूंगी कि बचपन से बच्चों की पहली शिक्षा बां-बाप देते हैं । अतः इस तरह की छेड़खानी कम करने के लिए लड़के-लड़कियों को आपस में एक दूसरे को देखने का नजरिया बदलना होगा । हमें बच्चे के बचपन में अच्छी शिक्षा पर भी ज्यादा ध्यान देना होगा । खास तौर से स्कूलों में मारेल एजुकेशन, नैतिक शिक्षा के विषय को पढ़ाना आवश्यक विषय बनाया जाए ।

दूसरी बात जिस पर हमें विशेष रूप से ध्यान देना होगा वह लड़के-लड़कियों को स्कूल के स्तर से ही उनको साथ-साथ मिलकर पढ़ने या को-एजुकेशन सिस्टम पर भी ज्यादा ध्यान देना होगा जिससे बचपन से ही पुरुष की स्त्री के प्रति रखने वाली मानसिकता को बदला जा सके ।

तीसरी चीज मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि स्त्री के साथ छेड़खानी करने वालों को कठोर से कठोर दंड दिया जाये । इस बिल में दंड का प्रावधान बहुत कम है क्योंकि स्त्री का चरित्र हनन होता है । यह आवश्यक है कि इसमें प्रावधान किया जाये कि जो इस तरह से छेड़छाड़ करता है उसको कोर्ट से जब सजा मिल जाती है तो उसकी नौकरी खत्म की जाए जिससे वह कभी भविष्य में किसी तरह की स्त्री के साथ छेड़खानी करने की हिम्मत न करे । छेड़छाड़ करने वालों को कठोर दंड देने के साथ यह भी आवश्यक है कि छड़खानी से बचाव, छेड़खानी के प्रति स्त्रियों को सजग करने के लिए व अन्य सलाह मश्विरा देने के लिए हर गली मौहल्ला में एक-एक छेड़खानी कौंसलिंग सेल खोले जाये जहां लड़कियां अपनी ईव-टीजिंग संबंधी समस्याओं को आसानी से सलाह मश्विरा करके सुलझा सकें । क्योंकि यह समस्या कोर्ट में ले जाने से ही हल नहीं हो जाती । किन-किन को पुलिस द्वारा दंड दिया जायेगा ? छेड़खानी तो हर गली, मौहल्ल, हर बस, हर सड़क, हर लड़को के साथ की जाती है । इसलिए ईव-टीजिंग की छोटी-मोटी वारदातों के लिए स्त्रियों को पुलिस स्टेशन न जाना पड़े इसलिए यह आवश्यक है कि हर बस, हर गली, सड़कों पर थोड़ी-थोड़ी दूर पर, हर स्कूल में एक पुलिस चौकी बनायी जाए जहां महिलाओं को एस०पी० रखा जाए । उनकी सबसे बड़ी शिकायत है कि जब कोई महिला शिकायत करने जाती है, एफ०आई० आर० दर्ज करना चाहती है तो उसकी शिकायत नहीं लिखी जाती । इस बिल में हम यह कमी पाते हैं, इसमें यह आदेश नहीं दिया गया है कि पुलिस फौरन उन महिलाओं की शिकायत दर्ज करे जो महिलाएं यहां दर्ज कराने आती हैं, या छेड़खानी की शिकायत कराने आती हैं । जो महिलाएं शिकायत कराने आती हैं

[श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा]

उनको 'चालू' का नाम दे दिया जाता है। एक तरह से स्त्री के साथ छेड़खानी करके उसका चरित्र हनन किया जाता है। दो-तीन बार जब स्त्री शिकायत करती है तो उसके चरित्र के ऊपर लांछन लगाया जाता है। बहुत जरूरी है इस बिल में इस तरह का कोई प्रावधान हो जाए जिससे इस छेड़खानी की समस्या को जड़ से ही खत्म कर दिया जाए।

एक खास बात ईव-टीजिंग में आती है कि इस तरह की एक-दो वारदातों का महिलाओं द्वारा किये जाने पर समाज या मां-बाप समस्या का हल ढूंढने की जगह लड़की के चरित्र पर ही दोष लगा देते हैं। उनका भविष्य अन्धकारमय हो जाता है। उनकी शादी में भी समस्या आती है। जो वर्किंग गर्ल्स हैं उनकी नौकरी में अड़चनें आती हैं। उनकी सी०आर० में बैड एंटरी कर दी जाती है। यह लड़कियों के लिए बसों में या सड़कों पर एक तमाशा क्रिएट करता है। इस समस्या को सुलझाने के लिए बिल में कोई प्रावधान नहीं किया गया है।

आज जरूरत यह है कि इस तरह की समस्याओं से निपटने के लिए स्त्रियों में खुद जागरूकता पैदा होनी चाहिए। जागरूकता तभी पैदा होगी जब हम औरतों में एक विश्वास भरें और इस तरह की ट्रेनिंग दें, उनको आर्थिक रूप से सक्षम बनायें ताकि वह इस तरह की समस्याओं का दृढ़ता से सामना कर सकें ताकि उनको घर से, सुसराल से और दूसरी जगह से प्रताड़ित किया जाए, बाहर निकाला जाये तो वे आर्थिक रूप से सक्षम होने पर अपना जीवन बसर कर सकें। इसलिए बहुत जरूरी है कि उनको आर्थिक रूप से सक्षम बनाया जाए।

यह भी बहुत जरूरी है कि उनको जूडो-कराटे सिखाया जाए। जूडो-कराटे सेल्फ डिफेंस के लिए स्कूली स्तर से सिखाना बहुत जरूरी हैं।

छेड़खानी को सिर्फ कानूनी समस्या न मानकर एक गम्भीर समस्या के रूप में स्वीकार किया जाये। क्योंकि छेड़छाड़ कोई अपने आप में स्पष्ट परिभाषित समस्या नहीं है, बल्कि परिणाम है जिसके मूल में स्त्री के प्रति पुरुष का सामंती नजरिया है जिसे सिर्फ स्त्री को सबल बना कर ही समाप्त किया जा सकता है।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, my colleague has already pointed out that this Bill was first introduced in this House on 23rd August, 1984, and it is November 1988 now; more than four years have elapsed. Obviously, the Minister owes an explanation to this House as to why the Government has taken so much time in bringing forward this Bill for consideration and passing. We have seen earlier, on occasions,—you have also seen that the Government, in an unseemly haste, had asked the House to pass many important Bills, whenever it suited them, to curtail the rights of the people of this country in various ways. Though Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev is new to the Ministry of Home Affairs, I think he should, at least, explain why there has been delay in bringing forward this Bill. This is really an unpardonable act on the part of the Government to have brought forward this Bill for consideration and passing after when this was introduced four years ago; particularly, on an important issus as this one. Though the Bill is a very small one, the issue is of great social importance.

Secondly, Sir, the whole problem of eve-teasing is sought to be viewed in a legalistic way as if through the method of summary trial it would be stopped. As my colleague, Shrimati Veena Verma, rightly said, it is not a legal problem. It is not a problem arising out of some deficiencies in our law, in our legal system. Even there, what does the Bill provide for? The punishment provided for is between seven days' to fifteen days' imprisonment and fine. Even this punishment can be reduced in the discretion of the court. For every subsequent offence, the period of imprisonment has been increased to one month. Here also, the court has been given the discretion to reduce the period of imprisonment. Therefore, it is not a deterrent one though it appears to be so. The only thing is that summary trial has been provided for.

[Shri Dipen Ghosh]

Sir, what is the experience? This Bill itself is entitled 'The Delhi Prohibition of Eve-teasing Bill'. It betrays the situation obtaining in Delhi. The Government have come forward with this Bill in regard to Delhi which is the capital city of this country and which is a union territory directly administered by the Central Government. It has been pointed out in the Statement of Objects and Reasons itself that there has been an increase in the number of such cases. This is a sad commentary on the law and order situation obtaining in Delhi which is directly administered by the Central Government. The other day there was an incident which was reported in the 'Hindustan Times' in a big way. A lot of hue and cry was raised in both the Houses. The next day the police became very active in tracking down the culprits. A girl student, while going to college or coming back home from college, was sought to be harassed and molested inside a DTC bus. After a hue and cry was raised in Parliament 9.00 P.M. and newspapers the police immediately nabbed the accused. But a similar thing occurred in another DTC bus, the ladies went to the police station to record a protest and lodge an FIR, the police refused to note down the FIR. Mrs. Verma was right when she said that the police instead misbehaved with the ladies who had gone to the police station to lodge an FIR. This is the experience. And look at the way how the other passengers or the DTC employees or the conductors and drivers behave. The persons who are present in the same place of teasing, who are travelling by the same bus, not the particular person who teases but other persons also, take a lackadaisical attitude to the whole thing. They allow this to happen. So, it proves that it is not a question of simply providng for a summary trial or providing some punishment of seven to fifteen days, it is a social problem. Simply this Bill will not help in eradicating this particular problem. As Mr. Subramanian Swamy has sought to explain, it depends upon an attitude to be developed among the people of our country towards women, towards the status of women in our country. The status of women is not accepted in our society. He has talked about the film. See how publicity is given. Even for a product which has no connection with women, advertisers, project her as a media of selling certain products and earning more money. You are utilising her particular aspects—I do not want to say everything. Why in advertisements male figures are not projected, mostly advertisements are given projecting women figures, why is this the attitude of the society?

AN HON. MEMBER: It is because they are attractive.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: This is the approach of the society towards the status of women. Woman is considered as an objects of sale, as an object of earning more profit. That is why it enjoins upon the Government to create such an awareness, social awareness among the people of our country through variety of methods, variety of channels. And how does your Government Censor Board function? They allow such films to be shown which ought not be shown. Here you are making a law and in another department of the Government the Films Censor Board allows certain films to be exhibited in the cinema houses which projects woman as a demeaning object. Look at the banners and posters that you are allowing to be exhibited. This way you cannot tackle the problem. One method is that Government should ensure that the status of women is accepted as equal to that of men and that rights of women in our society, in all fields of our social activities, are ensured and upheld. Otherwise no simple legalistic method can solve this type of problem.

So, I would suggest, the bill is all right it cannot be objected to, it cannot be opposed, but certain other methods have also to be pursued, certain other methods have also to be adopted, and the punishment needs to be made more deterrent. Some kind of social activities have to be undertaken to create social awarness—some training in the schools and colleges, as suggested by my other colleagues,

should be accepted. Particularly when a senior Minister, Smt. Mohsina Kidwai, is also present here, I would like to stress that something has to be done in regard to the Film Censor Board. Government alone can do this thing. That is perhaps under the Ministry of Education. I do not know what type of education is sought to be given through such films as are being cleared by the Film Censor Board. So, something needs to be done by the Government to stop the exhibition of those films and the publicity and advertisement in connection therewith.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Smt. Jayanthi Natrajan. Absent. Smt. Sudha Joshi.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: It is a shame that women should be absent on an important Bill like this.

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI (Maharashtra): We are here.

कुमारी सईदा खातून (मध्य प्रदेश) : जो प्रेजेंट हैं उनको बोलने दिया जाए।

श्रीमती सुधा विजय जोशी: उप-सभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं दिल्ली छेड़खानी प्रतिषेध विधेयक, 1984 का समर्थन कर रही हूं। महोदय, कोई भी अखबार आप खोलिये, रोजाना महिलाओं के ऊपर किये गये अत्याचारों की और छेड़छाड़ की खबरें छपी हुई नजर आएंगी (**व्यवधान**) क्यों महिलाओं के ऊपर ही अत्याचार होते हैं, क्यों उनको छेड़ा जाता है। इसका कारण यह है कि आज बीसवीं सदी के अंत में भी बहुसंख्यक पुरुषों की नजरों में औरत एक उपभोग्य चीज है और वे उससे छेड़छाड़ कर के अपना दिल बहलाना अपना हक मानते हैं। कई वर्षों से ऐसे लोगों को सबक सिखलाने की जरूरत महसूस हो रही है। मुझे खुशी है सरकार ने इस मामले में सही कदम उठाया है। छेड़खानी के मामले आबादी के साथ साथ बढ़ते जा रहे हैं। कालेज की छात्राएं अपने आप को आजकल बिलकुल असुरक्षित महसूस कर रही हैं। पिछले कुछ दिनों में जो घटनाएं घटी हैं उनसे तो जवान लड़कियां परेशान सी हुई है। डी.टी.सी. बसें तो महिलाओं की छेड़-खानी करने के अड्डे बने हुए है। दिल्ली के इन्द्रप्रस्थ कालेज की छात्रा कुमारी मनीषा वर्मा को डी.टी.सी. कर्मचारियों की बदतमीजी के कारण अपनी इज्जत बचाने के लिए जान की बाजी लगा कर चलती बस से कूदना पड़ा। इस घटना को कुछ ही दिन हुए थे कि श्री वेंकटेश कालेज की छात्रा कुमारी शोभा को भी कंडक्टर और ड्राइवर की बदतमीजी का सामना करना पड़ा और चलती बस से कूद पड़ने की नौबत आ गई। यह बड़े शर्म की बात है कि डी.टी.सी. कर्मचारियों को जहां महिलाओं की हिफाजत करनी चाहिये वहां वे महिला यात्रियों की इज्जत पर डाका डालने पर तुले हुए होते हैं। ऐसे कर्मचारी जो ड्यूटी पर होते हुए भी महिलाओं के साथ बदतमीजी करते हैं उन्हें कड़ी से कड़ी सजा मिलनी चाहिये। जनरल बसेज में तो महिलाओं की बुरी हालत होती ही है लेकिन यूनिवर्सिटी स्पेशल में भी उन्हें लड़कों की गंदी भाषा सुननी पड़ती है। न केवल लड़के बल्कि कुछ मध्यम वर्ग के और बूढ़े भी गंदी भाषा का इस्तेमाल करना, गंदे हावभाव करना या गंदे इरादों से लड़कियों के शरीर को स्पर्श करने जैसी हरकतें करते है। यह बड़ी शर्म की बात है.. (**व्यवधान**) बहुत नाजुक मामला है आपको ध्यान से सुनना पड़ेगा। यह अनुभव बम्बई जैसे शहर में बसेज, लोकल ट्रेन्स और भीड़भाड़ की जगह में घटने वाला आम अनुभव है। बम्बई में लोकल ट्रेन्स में महिलाओं के लिए आरक्षित डिब्बे होते हैं। मुझे याद है मैं जब कालेज में पढ़ती थी तब लोकल से सफर करते समय एक अनुभव जरूर होता था। शाम के सात बजे के बाद फर्स्ट क्लास और 9 बजे के बाद सेकेण्ड क्लास का आरक्षित डिब्बा जनरल बन जाता था और फिर उसमें मर्द ही मर्द घुस जाते थे, हम लोगों के बैठने की बात तो छोड़िए खड़े रहने की भी जगह नहीं मिलती थी और इन डिब्बों में घुसने के लिए गुंडे ही तरसते थे, अच्छे लोग महिलाओं के डिब्बों में चढ़ने की कोशिश ही नहीं करते थे। आजकल एक आरक्षित डिब्बा 24 घंटे महिलाओं के लिए आर-

क्षित रहता है। इससे थोड़ी सुविधा प्राप्त हुई है फिर भी डिब्बों में घुस कर महिलाओं को तकलीफ देने का अपना कार्य कुछ लोग कभी भी छोड़ते नहीं हैं। मैं बम्बई की बात कर रही हूं क्योंकि मैंने वहां यह अनुभव लिया है।

दूसरी बात, जब दूसरी ट्रेन पास में खड़ी होती है या पास से गुजरती है तब महिलाओं के डिब्बों में जलती हुई सिगरेट फेंकना, छिल्के या पत्थरों से महिलाओं को मारना या गंदी गंदी बातें करना यह सब भी वहां पर आम तरीके से चलते हुए नजर आता है। बेचारी लड़कियां डर के मारे और शर्म के मारे भी मुंह से लफ्ज तक नहीं निकालती हैं, ईव टीजिंग सेल में शिकायत करने से भी हिचकती हैं। मैं चाहूंगी कि ऐसे समाज कंटक गुंडों को सबक सिखाने के लिए निर्भर होकर लड़कियों के आगे आने की जरूरत है। स्टुडेंट्स यूनियन भी ईव टीजिंग के खिलाफ सक्रिय है। महोदय, माता पिता का भी कर्तव्य है कि पहले तो अपने बच्चों की परवरिश इस प्रकार से करें कि वे किसी से छड़छाड़ न करें और अगर दुर्भाग्य से उनके बच्चों ने छेड़छाड़ की और इसका पता माता पिता को चले तो बच्चे का ऐसा बंदोबस्त करना चाहिए कि आगे चलकर ऐसी हरकतें करने की उसकी हिम्मत न हो। लड़कियां अपनी रक्षा कर सकें ऐसी शिक्षा भी उन्हें प्राप्त हो और लड़के लड़कियों की हिफाजत करें ऐसे संस्कार उनमें हों।

मान्यवर, अनुभव में ऐसा आता है कि किसी लड़की के साथ उसका सहयात्री बदतमीजी करता है तो दूसरे यात्री और डी०टी०सी० कर्मचारी उस लड़की की मदद करने के बजाय उसको ही कोसते हैं। क्योंकि मैं बम्बई की हूं, हिंदी मेरी मातृभाषा नहीं है इसलिए कहीं पर गलती हो जाये तो आप मुझे जरूर क्षमा करेंगे ..(व्यवधान)

सुमंगला नाम की एक जे०एन०यू० की छात्रा को ऐसा अनुभव मिला था। उल्टे बदतमीजी करने वाला उसको तमाचा मारकर गालियां देता हुआ भाग निकला, किसी ने उसको रोका नहीं, टोका नहीं, बल्कि यह जो सुमंगला थी उस पर आरोप लगाया गया कि उसने यह तमाशा किया और बस को देर कर दी फिर भी सब लोग ऐसे गैर जिम्मेदार नहीं होते हैं। डी०टी०सी० में बलविंदर कुमार मेहता जैसे अपनी जान धोखे में डालकर लड़की के साथ छेड़छाड़ करने वाले को पकड़ने वाले बहादुर कंडक्टर्स भी होते हैं। जिसको पकड़कर सजा दिलवायी, जाहिर है कि वह गुंडा ही था। ऐसे लोग गुंडे ही होते हैं और यह जो गुंडा था उसने बलविंदर को और उनके परिवार दोनों को धमकी दी थी। ऐसे गुंडों का बन्दोबस्त होना चाहिये और बलविंदर जैसों को पूरा संरक्षण मिलना चाहिए ताकि औरतों की मदद के लिये अच्छे लोग आगे आयें।

मान्यवर, पुलिस ने 25 प्वाइंट्स पर उनकी ब्लू कंट्रोल रूम जीप्स को डी०टी०सी० बसों में ईव टीजिंग को चैक करने के लिए सूचित किया है। यह जीप बस को रुकवाती है, पुलिसमैन बस के अन्दर जाता है, पूछता है कि ईव टीजिंग के बारे में कोई शिकायत तो नहीं है? पुलिसमैन महिलाओं की जगह पर जो आदमी बैठ हुये होते हैं, उनको भी उठाता है और महिलाओं को उनकी जगह दिलवाता है। यह सब जो एक्सरसाईज है, आध मिनट का बस का वक्त लेती है और बस आगे चल पड़ती है। इस से ईव टीजिंग और पिक-पाकेटिंग दोनों कम हो जायग, ऐसा पुलिस का कहना है।

पुलिस की पी० सी० आर० वैन ने 12 सितम्बर को अच्छे घर के सात गुंडा लड़कों को भी ईव टीजिंग के जुर्म में गिरफ्तार कर लिया था। मान्यवर, ऐसे उपायों के बावजूद भी महिलाओं की छेड़-छाड़ होती ही रहती है। इसलिये ऐसी छेड़-छाड़ को अपराध ठहराकर अपराधी को सजा देने की व्यवस्था इस विधेयक ने की है। जैसा कि श्री सुब्रह्मण्यन जी ने कहा, मेरा भी कहना है..? (समय की घंटी) ..मान्यवर, मुझे दो मिनट और

[श्रीमती सुधा विजय जोशी]

दीजिये । मान्यवर, क्लाज 2 में ईव टीजिंग का विवेचन किया गया है । पब्लिक प्लेस का डेफिनिशन उसमें है । उसमें टेलीफोन करके जो गंदी-गंदी बातें बोली जाती हैं और महिलाओं को सताया जाता है, उसको भी समाविष्ट कर लेना चाहिये । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना करूंगी कि यह बात भी आप उसमें समाविष्ट कर लीजिये ।

क्लाज 3 के अनुसार ऐसे अपराधी को उसका पहला ही गुनाह हो तो कम से कम सात दिन की और ज्यादा से ज्यादा 15 दिन की सजा और जुर्माना हो सकता है । महिलाओं की ओर बुरी नजर से देखने की उन्हें तकलीफ हो, ऐसा वर्ताव करने की किसी की जुरत न हो, इसलिये सजा बढ़ाने की बहुत आवश्यकता है । कम से कम एक महीना ऐसे पापी को चक्की पीसने के लिये भेजा ही जाए ।

विधेयक में जुर्माना कितना होगा, इसका जिक्र नहीं किया गया है । विधेयक में जुर्माने का आंकड़ा होना चाहिये । वह रकम पांच हजार रुपये से कम न हो--पहले गुनाह के बाद फिर से गुनाह करे, तो कम से कम 15 दिन और ज्यादा से ज्यादा एक महीने की सजा और जुर्माने का प्रबंध किया है, इसे भी बढ़ाकर कम से कम एक महीने की और ज्यादा से ज्यादा तीन महीने की सजा हो । इस गुनाह को कोग्निजेबल और नान-बेलेबल किया है, यह भी बड़ी सराहनीय बात है । इसकी जल्दी से जल्दी सुनवाई हो, इसलिये समरी बेसिस पर ट्रायल करना यह भी उचित है ।

मान्यवर, महिलाओं की छेड़-छाड सिर्फ दिल्ली में ही नहीं होती, बडे शहरों से लेकर छोटे गांवों तक हर जगह होती है, फिर क्यों यह कानून दिल्ली के लिये ही सीमित है, क्यों न इसे पूरे भारत में लागू करें ?

यह कानून पूरे भारत में लागू करने की बड़ी आवश्यकता है ।

महिलाओं के लिये सरकार ने बहुत सारे कानून बनाये हैं । यह कानून भी बड़ा अच्छा कानून है, लेकिन अक्सर देखा जाता है कि उसका इंप्लिमेंटेशन ठीक नहीं होता है और कानून होने के बावजूद भी महिलाओं को कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है, कठिनाइयां भुगतनी पड़ती हैं । इसलिये हर कानून के साथ सरकार देखे कि उसकी कार्यवाही के लिये एक सक्षम, तगडी इंप्लिमेंटेशन मशीनरी का भी निर्माण करे ।

सब से जरूरी बात है कि हमारे समाज का महिलाओं की तरफ देखने का दृष्टिकोण बदले और वह दृष्टिकोण तभी बदल सकता है जब हर क्षेत्र में उसको उचित स्थान प्राप्त हो । महिलाओं की आबादी 50 प्रतिशत है, उनमें काबिल महिलायें भी बहुत सारी हैं, उन्हें राजकीय, सामाजिक और आर्थिक क्षेत्र में उचित स्थान मिलना चाहिये । उनका जीवन स्तर ऊंचा करने के लिये हर प्रकार की सहायता सरकार ने और समाज ने दोनों में देनी चाहिये । तो यह जो इस प्रकार के अपराध है, वह अपने आप खत्म हो जायेंगे । हमारी सरकार इस दिशा में प्रगति पथ पर चल रही है और महिलाओं क उत्थान के लिय भरसक कोशिश कर रही है, इसके लिये मैं सरकार का अभिनन्दन करना चाहती हूं और इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ इस विधेयक का समर्थन करती हूं ।

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): I want to know if this is eve-teasing or *Tareef* under the definition.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): With great respect to you they are saying.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who can tease you?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): When men are eased, what have they to do?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Kindly listen. It is a serious matter. Don't take it lightly.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: At the very outset I would like to emphasise that the title itself, the word 'eve-

teasing has connotations of cheapness. It associates with denigration of the status of women. The subject deals with denigration of women. We had brought out in this House a Bill on the denigration of the status of women. I would say it comes under the umbrella of that, but the word 'eve-teasing' is so plastic, so cheap, that I would urge the Minister at this moment, do take note of it and change it to 'prevention of harassment to women' or 'prevention of distress to women'.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Quite right. We support that.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Or any other title, but not 'eve-teasing', because the seriousness, the implication of what it can mean to a woman and her spirit is itself further lowered.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There is no Adam teasing.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Yes, there is no Adam teasing as such. And when we talk of child labour, we don't say Adam-labour and eve-labour amongst children. So on a broader spectrum let it be called 'prevention of harassment to women' or whatever other title you may give.

A lot of points which have been made by my respected colleague are very noteworthy. What must be dealt with with utmost seriousness is the fact that we in post-independent India, in a Government that works or it works super-fast or whatever the motto is, we are going into the 21st century, we have space technology, we are encouraging widow remarriage, we deify women, we burn them in the name of God, we do everything and then we have to bring about a piece of legislation like this to protect the self-respect, to permit a woman to leave her home and to go back with her dignity intact. We don't want to go into society, to go out to work and earn our bread when we go home and we feel soiled. We are used, abused for sexual satisfaction, for your own needs, by the society at large. We are daughters to our parents and we beget daughters. We are women in whose lap men are born and we are not brought up as public entertainment for you at bus stands and cinema halls, at road sides, in restaurants, at any place where we cannot walk as independent citizens of this country. We are not less important to this country than the man is. Hence cognisance must be taken. But how important it is? What a shame that we have to bring about a piece of legislation as it is today in the capital of the country. And as it has been just said it should not be made applicable only to New Delhi or Delhi, but to every corner of this country, because women should be able to hold their heads high and walk with pride and self-respect and with dignity. For this several measures have to be taken. First, movies as a media where you show hero pushing a woman into slush or rain or throwing tomatoes at her and then she falls in love with him. Can you imagine the impact this makes on an impressionable age, where a teen-aged son of yours goes to cinema hall and comes out and on seeing an attractive girl thinks that this formula is going to work, that he is going to push her and she is going to fall in love with him. If we have martial arts training then, she will turn around and slap him and this will probably do him good.

The second thing is that the double meaning songs and the insinuations that are brought into songs and various parts of the anatomy are totally denigrating, humiliating not only to a woman but to the family as a unit. Your children are exposed to such films and they are bringing on value systems. Our children are not going to be impressed by what we say at home as we know When we were children we thought that we knew better than our parents did, We want PEER group recognition. So we look at our friends and we want to behave like that because we want their approval. So if we want our children to behave properly they must have good sense. If they must have good sense, then, we need a better society. If we

[Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury]

mean a better society, then, we as people of this nation must act as a moral fibre, we as a conscience, as a society, as a collective responsibility, we must act. We must interact. We must react. It is horrible that a woman can walk on the roads and 50 people whistle at her and man do not turn but look the other side, and don't stop the other man from doing it. It is again the burden of a woman to pick up if she has the courage, to turn around and fight otherwise she will carry the burden home and keep it in her heart bacause in her home there is a father who will turn around and say "Maybe you did something," there is a brother who will turn around and accuse her. No family structure is supportive to a woman, who will come home and say "There is a man outside whistlling at me; do something about it?" Nobody will come home and say because her family will not do anything about it. As my colleague, Shrimati Sudha Joshi has said of the police stopping a bus and asking "Are you being eve-teased?" It is most ridiculous. It is not practical. Do you imagine that a girl is going to stand up in the full view of the bus and say "Yes, this man has been harassing me, sitting next to me and putting his thigh next to me though there is no need to or he is patting my arm when I don't like it." Do you think she is going to reach home safe? In Delhi where the police is crawling at every corner and the man has the audacity to indulge in an act like that is so debasing to of humanity. We are bringing about a legislation like this. Do we have the political will to implement it? Do we have the courage to implement it? Do we really need this piece of legislation? Do you really mean business? We don't need this piece of legislation. It is just another piece of eve wash. Whom are we trying to fool? Not the women of this country. As a woman, let me tell you, despite my intimidating height, size and weight, even I am subjected to eve-teasing and we don't have to go too far.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): They are afraid of you.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I am glad because a woman takes lot of avtaars and one of them is Kali avtaar.

We don't have to go out into the streets, it happens in the Parliament House. See our colleagues wanting to assault us, threatening us and saying all sorts of derogatory things also, who pull faces, who by an act, a gesture misbehave and this is terrible. That is, at the highest office if this can happen to a woman, then, no man here has the moral right to continue sitting in the Rajya Sabha. You...

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: This particular remark should not go on record.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It can happen, but it cannot go on record?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: I know your sentiments and I have talked to you. Madam, when you said "some colleagues doing it" and going in the record....

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I have not mentioned any names. That much I have yielded to.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Renuka, no accusations.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: She has not said anything unparliamentary. How can you say it should be taken off the record?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: It may be you, Mr. Subramanian Swamy.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I have a reputation. Don't worry about that.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: What I am trying to say is the seriousness of the issue. Being a Member of Parliament we have to be at our best.

यह कोई पुलिस की वर्दी नहीं है या और किसी की वर्दी नहीं है कि घर में जाकर हेंगर पर टांग दें और जो मर्जी कर लें, वह भी नहीं करते हैं।

We are doubly responsible. We have to practise what we preach. I should be able to go out and say that in this House all my friends, all my colleagues, believe in what they say.

There are also other measures which we have to take. You have to use the media for social counselling. You should show it as a social crime on the TV. People who indulge in it should face public wrath. I would recommend public punishment when they are publicly humiliated. Why not? When we are publicly humiliated, why not they also be? In the bus they push their anatomy towards us; verbal assaults are made; songs are sung; comments are passed. When we are offended publicly, why should not the offender be also punished publicly? They should have public punishment. There should be a social stigma. The offender should lose his job. Unless this socially aberrative behaviour is treated in the correct sense, unless it becomes a social liability for him to behave like that, unless his family is informed about his behaviour, he will not stop. Any amount of putting him in jail for a non-bailable offence for 15 days will not help. He will show casual leave in his office and go back to work. And he will become a seasoned criminal. The only way to stop this is to make him lose his job. His department should label him as an eve-teaser and put up on the notice-board his *tasveer*. There should be a paper notification and in the police station he should be maintained along with the rowdy-sheeted. In the police station, there should be a separate record for this offence. Voluntary organisations and women's organisations should help these girls. These organisations should help the families to come to the support of their own girls. Otherwise they are insecure.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): The Minister has to make a statement.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I am concluding. (*Interruptions*).

श्री मोहम्मद खलीलुर्रहमान (आन्ध्र प्रदेश) : बोलने दीजिए अच्छा बोल रही हैं।

श्री जसवंत सिंह : बहुत अच्छा बोल रही हैं। मिनिस्टर साहब एक मिनट रुक जायें।

... (व्यवधान) ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Kindly complete in two minutes. Or you can speak after the statement.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I am concluding. Home-guards is a voluntary organization. I am a registered home-guard myself. Quite often when I see something like this on the road, I take action. We should encourage more and more people to join this oragnisation where people take the responsibility as citizens and prevent this. They must do beats at the time of dispersal of people in colleges, theatres, etc. They should stand near colleges and theatres in mufti and nab the offenders on the spot. We can also have motorcycle-squads, mobile courts for this purpose. Unless there is mass-scale drive against this, women will continue to be burnt at homes, will continue to resent daughters being born because they are insecure to be sent outside to be educated, they are insecure to be sent outside to participate in anything, they are insecure to be sent to earn their livelihood. They cannot become financially independent and they cannot remain on their feet and they will be dependent on men. If they are dependent on men, dowry deaths will increase and harassment will go on and women will never learn to be equal to men. I request you to see it in the correct perspective and take action. I once again request you to change the title. Thank you.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Further discussion will continue after the Minister's statement. Now, the Minister will make the statement.